

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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17

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01

CIAE-00 INSE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 DEAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /086 W
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O P 040849Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1486

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 9136

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: BOAT CASES MEIABETO

1. HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS JUST INFORMED US CONFIDENTIALLY
THAT THEY ARE EXPECTING ANOTHER SHIP WITH VIETNAMESE
REFUGEES AT 7:30 A.M. TOMORROW. PANAMANIAN SHIP NAMED
MEIABETO PICKED UP 19 SURVIVORS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA
ON ITS WAY FROM JAKARTA TO HONG KONG WHERE IT PLANS TO
REMAIN FOR 7 DAYS FOR REPAIRS AND RETURN TO JAKARTA.

2. HONG KONG GOVERNMENT PLANS TO ALLOW THE 19 OFF
OF THE SHIP AND TURN THEM OVER TO UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE
SAMPAT KUMAR WITHOUT PUBLICUTY. THEY HAVE REQUESTED UK
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EMBASSY TO SO INFORM DEPARTMENT OF STATE "IN ORDER TO

MAKE SOME POINTS." WE BELIEVE THIS IS A HIGHLY DESIRABLE
METHOD OF HANDLING SUCH CASES AND THAT THE BRITISH
ARE ENTITLED TO SOME CREDIT IF ALL GOES AS PLANNED. THERE
IS A SUBSTANTIAL POSSIBILITY THAT THE NEWS WILL LEAK OUT,
HOWEVER, IN WHICH CASE WE WILL HAVE ANOTHER USEFUL
PRECEDENT FOR THE FUTURE.
CROSS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, MEIABETO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976HONGK09136
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760300-0120
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760889/aaaaczth.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: BOAT CASES MEIABETO
TAGS: SREF, HK, VN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006